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**Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2012**

Convened at 10:00am

Members present: Martha Coakley, Geline W. Williams, Julie Dahlstrom, Heather Rowe, Josiane Martinez, Dave Murphy, Ellen Slaney, Sgt. Pi Heseltine, Katia Santiago-Taylor, Susan Goldfarb, Stephanie Decandia, Chris Carroll, Cherie Jimenez, Lisa Goldblatt Grace, Sheridan Haines, Chief Tom Pasquarello, Dep. Sup. Kelly Nee, Amy Farrell

Staff Present: Liam Lowney, Kimberly Henry, Stephen Stuart

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve Minutes of 2/24/12 HTTF
- Minutes adopted unanimously and will be posted on the AGO website

Motion to Accept Remote Participation Proposal

- Allows option for Task Members to participate in meetings remotely in accordance with Open Meeting Law Regulations.
- Not meant as convenient alternative to attending; to be used only in emergency situations as outlined in regulations
- Passed unanimously

Presentation by Northeastern University Professor Amy Farrell

Prof. Farrell's presentation focused on the extent of trafficking and challenges faced by prosecutors and service providers in addressing it.

- Hard to determine actual extent of trafficking due to variations in data reporting, misclassification of crimes
- Data for sex trafficking is more prevalent than labor trafficking; evident through prostitution cases
- Data on state trafficking prosecution is sparse due to same challenges (misclassification of crimes)
- Reasons for underreporting in addition to misclassification:
 - Lack of LE/prosecutor awareness and education on trafficking
 - Insufficient resources to identify and prosecute traffickers
 - Lack of community education/awareness on trafficking
- Trafficking cases that have been prosecuted tend to be reactive, rather than proactive
- Inherent issues with trafficking
 - Hidden crime – private nature and risk to victim reporting reduces reports for prosecutors
 - Law enforcement officials and prosecutors wait for reports to come in, but victims are afraid of retaliation or prosecution and do not report victimization
 - Narrow focus on domestic trafficking and sex trafficking of minors; labor trafficking is overlooked
 - Lack of communication or tools in the field
- Farrell notes that recognition of Civil Rights and Human Rights aspect of trafficking is crucial
- Cross-collaboration between branches of law enforcement, government, NGOs is important
- Suspect-centered approach on cases tends to be more successful

- Finding corroborating evidence to support victim/witness testimony greatly facilitates prosecution and can impact victims willingness to participate
- HTTF Questions on presentation tended to focus on victim/witness services side of trafficking
- Discussion about the need to focus on services for victims and on building cases that don't only rely on their testimony alone

Upcoming Schedule of Task Force Meetings

- June: Demand (v), victim services (iii)
- September Education/training (ix), data collection and sharing presentations (ii)
- November: Education/training presentations(iv), public awareness(vii), victim services (vi)
- January: Education/training presentations (viii)
- March: Data collection strategies (i), public awareness (iv)
- May: Final recommendations due for submission
- June: Report due to legislature

Motion to Accept Schedule for Meetings

- **Motion passed unanimously**

Meeting Adjourned

List of Documents and Exhibits Used by Task Force

Presentation by Professor Farrell

Presentation by Martha Coakley